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| Nur ad Din was keen to promoted himself as a devout Muslim Leader and a warrior for jihad. Between 1154 and 1163 he built many buildings in Damascus and other Syrian towns.In 1163 he completed the greatest of buildings in Damascus – the House of Justice. He was seen as a model Sunni Muslim ruler who was deeply religious and seriously committed to jihad. | Battle of Inab 1149His troops attacked the town of Inab and after much fighting was successful. Raymond of Antioch was amongst the dead and he was beheaded – his head sent to Baghdad.Nur ad Din pushed on and took the towns of Harim and Apamea – securing the northern state. He did not press on to Antioch as it was very heavily fortified but he had rendered it less of a threat. | 1163 – Baldwin was replaced by his brother Amalric – he was quieter but a formidable crusader king. He was prepared to confront his enemies and made the conquest of Egypt his priority. Before his death in 1174 he attempted many invasions of Egypt.Fearful of a crusader takeover of Egypt Nur ad Din focused his resources on expelling the Franks. He sent a trusted veteran Shirkuh and his second in command, his young nephew Salah ad Din – better known as Saladin. Between 1164 and 1169 they fought a number of bitter campaigns against the Franks. |
| 1174 – war between Nur ad Din looked imminent. Then suddenly in May Nur ad Din died of a heart attack.In July Amalric died of dysentery. He was succeeded by his son Baldwin IV – he was 13 and suffering from leprosy. | The Battle of Hattin 1187 - 1186 – Saladin began preparation for a full scale attack on the Franks. He made a number of small incursions and killed over 100 Frankish knights. Raymond expelled the Muslims and put his support in King Guy. | In the years between 1174 and 1184 Saladin secured his hold over Egypt and Syria and began to create a unity in the Muslim world. Meanwhile the crusader states became weaker and more divided. |
| After 1174 Saladin was a careful diplomat. He wrote a letter of support to Nur ad Din’s son al-Salih, promising to protect him. Saladin also married Nur ad Din’s widow. He first began to increase his control by marching in to Damascus with great rejoice. He claimed it was to continue his move towards taking Jerusalem but many Muslims leaders became worried. | 1157 – 58 - Nur ad Din became seriously ill and almost died. This led to a spiritual awakening – he discarded his clothes for simple garments and went on pilgrimage to Makkah.Following this he rebuilt the walls of Medina – Islam’s second holiest city and an increase in religious martyrdom was promoted. Muslims fighting the infidel would be rewarded with a place in paradise. It was emphasized that it was the duty of all good Muslims to recapture Islam’s third holiest city – Jerusalem. | In the summer of 1187 – the large Christian force assembled to fight Saladin left the rest of the crusader states weak and poorly defended. Saladin and his forces swept through Palestine and by late September were besieging their ultimate goal – Jerusalem. After a 5 day siege the holy city was taken on September 29th. Saladin made his triumphant entry into the city on October 2nd. |
| 1146 – Muslim leader was killed and replaced by young son Nur ad Din. He would emerge as the leading Muslin, unite Syria and extend into Egypt.In the beginning he needed to secure northern Syria from attack by the Crusader states. | 1169 – Shirkuh died and Saladin replaced him. He began to assert his authority in Egypt – fighting the Fatimid Caliph and imposing Sunni Islam on Egypt. He defeated the army and created his own military corps – the Salahiyya and defeated Amalric’s fifth and final excursion into Egypt. | Conflict and control in Egypt. - After 1163 Nur ad Din began to confront the Franks on the borders between Syria and crusader states of Antioch, Tripoli and Jerusalem.However his main focus was on Egypt. He wanted to unite the country to help force the Franks out of Jerusalem. |
| By the end of 1174 several of Syria’s warlords decided to support Saladin. He began to take Syrian towns with little opposition, however Aleppo proved difficult to subdue and did not fall to him until 1183. Saladin spent the first decade of his rule fighting other Muslims. | In 1174 – leaders of the Muslim and Frankish kings could not be more different – Saladin was an experienced leader – Baldwin IV a teenager with an incurable disease controlled by a regent. | 1170 – Amalric sent diplomats to Europe to appeal for help. Meetings with the pope came to nothing and conflict between Louis VII and Henry II meant that the two could not agree on a plan to help. Amalric travelled to Byzantine to pay homage to Manuel I in return for protection. |
| Despite Nur ad Din’s strength he made little real advance in jihad against the Franks. Between 1154 – 1163 the crusader states were beginning to regain some strength.1153 – Baldwin III won a victory in Ascalon – securing all ports on the coast of Palestine.Antioch began to regain strength – Constance married Reynald of Chatillon. A brutal man he proved to be a formidable defender of crusader territory until he was captured by Nur ad Din in 1161.1158 – crusaders captured town of Harim from Nur ad Din.Relations with Byzantine Empire improved through some key marriages. | Despite weaknesses Nur ad Din did not launch a direct assault. He focused on consolidating his control in Syria and he wanted to take Damascus. He used mixed strategies and in 1154 the people surrendered. For first time since Crusades began on person ruled Aleppo and Damascus. He created a united Muslim Syria which would prove to be a formidable power base in fight against the Franks. | In June 1187 – both sides gathered for a fight. The Christian army had around 16,000 troops, outnumbered by the Muslim army of 30,000.27th June Saladin led his men across the River Jordan – the full scale invasion of Palestine had begun.Saladin planned the attack well and lured the Christian soldiers to the Horns of Hattin. Without water and in the heat of the day they were attacked by the Muslim forces. Once it was clear that the battle was over he called for Reynald and Guy to his tent. Dying of thirst both me were sure they would die. Saladin gave Guy a glass of iced water and spared his life but he refused Reynald and sliced off his head. |
| Between 1174 and 1185 the crusader states became weaker and less able to counter Muslim attacks. They were not in a desperate state and in 1177 defeated the Muslims and almost killed Saladin in a battle at Montgisard but they were becoming weaker due to 3 main reasons.1. Baldwin IV’s leprosy – he became weaker and almost blind. The longer he lived the weaker the state became.
2. With Baldwin weak and without an heir the ruling elite began to fight for power. Raymond III Count of Tripoli (Baldwin’s cousin) came head to head with Baldwin’s mother Agnes. When Baldwin’s sister Sibylla married Guy Lusignan, a young French knight who became a potential successor. This distracted the crusaders and caused division.
3. Lack of support from Byzantine and Europe. When Manuel I died in 1180 his replacement Andronicus had little interest in helping. Neither did Henry II or Phillip II.
 | 1185 – Saladin was 48 and became ill with fever. For a year he believed he would die and when he began his recovery be became more spiritual and dedicated to jihad and the recovery of Jerusalem.Balwin finally died in 1185 aged just 23. He had showed great courage but had weakened the crusader states. His 7 year old nephew – son of Sibylla was crowned and died very quickly. This stared a contest for the crown. Raymond of Tripoli, acting as regent tried to make his move but he was outmaneuvered by Sibylla and Guy Lusignan who were crowned king and queen of Jerusalem.When Raymond of Tripoli felt threatened by Guy he made a deal with Saladin, allowing Muslims to cross his lands. This was how fractured the crusader lands had become. | Weakness in crusader statesLatin Christian ruler of Jerusalem was Baldwin III – he faced several weaknesses.1. He was young and controlled by his mother Melisende. She refused to let him rule and their relationship soured – she was forced to abdicate.
2. He was forced to rule Antioch after 1149 as Raymond only had a young son and his wife refused to remarry.
3. In 1152 he was firced to take over rule of Tripoli when its ruler Raymond II was murdered. He was a good commander but over stretched.
4. He received no support from Europe. After failure of the Second Crusade there was little hunger to launch a new crusade.
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| 1169 – a bitter conflict with the Franks lasted a year. Shirkuh expelled them, assassinated the Egyptian leader (Vizier) and made himself leader. Now the threat to Jerusalem and the crusader states intensified. | 1171 – the Caliph in Egypt died and Saladin took full control. For the first time in 200 years Egypt became Sunni. Saladin was growing in strength and Nur ad Din feared he was loosing control over him. Tensions between the two leaders became tense and Nur ad Din threatened to invade Eqypt. | Nur ad Din proved to be a pragmatic ruler in light of these changes.When Manuel I assembled a Christian army in Antioch to attack Aleppo he agreed a truce in 1161.In 1163 – Baldwin III died aged 33. This made the crusader state vulnerable but Nur ad Din did not react.By 1163 – this was about to change. |